

TRUTH

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UTAH'S MAFIA

For a good many years a sort of society not very much dissimilar to the Italian Mafia has existed and still exists in Utah. The Utah society has not, however, the excuse of the Mafia for existing. The Mafia exists for the avowed purpose of bestowing freedom on down-trodden, priest-ridden humanity, and although it is extreme to the point of devilishness in its means, there is a reasonable excuse for its being, and as compared with the Utah society its object and aims are noble, although the means it adopts are reprehensible. The Utah society is the most contemptible, most despicable, organization we know of. It exists for pelf, for filthy lucre, for hate and for revenge. The nucleus of the society and that which, to the world, gives it an air of respectability is a number of so-called ministers of the gospel, who make a living by preaching lies and vile slanders against Utah. They go east and west, north and south, inventing and telling Munchausen stories about Utah and her people. In this they exhibit the most brazen effrontery. They do it for the purpose of getting money from credulous audiences and the more outlandish and horrifying the stories they tell the more bountiful are the collections. This kind of thing has been going on for years and the long-faced hypocrites if they have not waxed fat have in their petit larceny way at least gained a comfortable and easy living by telling falsehoods and slandering their neighbors. These preachers travel at half fare, accept the bounty of the railroad companies, while they use their utmost endeavor to injure not only the business of the railroads, but that of all the people of this state. The railroads are fully "onto" their game and are threatening to cut off their half-fare privileges and make them pay full rates, like other people. This nucleus of Utah's Mafia forms alliances with all sorts and conditions of people to further their nefarious purposes. They ally themselves with gamblers, women of the town, liquor dealers, professional affidavit makers, disreputable detectives and all the worst elements of society when they find it to their interest to do so. They have even sung to such depths of infamy

as to make bosom friends, boon companions and fellow workers of the infamous triumvirate which conducts the Salt Lake Tribune, a paper which is the recognized organ of the Knockers and which makes a business of injuring the state by publishing the most infamous falsehoods about Utah and her people, Mormon and Gentile. A most unseemly thing it is for ministers of the gospel to work hand in hand with such known blackguards as ex-Senators Kearns and Cannon and a pettyfogging lawyer and all-round trickster and cunning money-grabber like Joe Lippman. Kearns and Cannon are about the worst specimens of society in the United States. The former came to Utah from Nebraska, a fugitive from justice, not daring to use his own name, but going under an alias to escape the hangman's noose, and bearing the brand of Cain. Since he has been here he has established a reputation as a libertine a despoiler of women, a man absolutely without principle in any walk of life, ignorant, uncouth, revengeful, with few if any redeeming qualities. He killed a man in Nebraska and a miner in Park City, on his death-bed, implicated the ex-U. S. senator in the killing of another miner, who owned some mining ground that Kearns wanted. The victim was slain, and the dying man, to ease his conscience, confessed that he had committed the murder for money. That's not so many years ago, either.

Ex-Senator Cannon has been styled the Breckenridge of Utah. It's a slander on Breckenridge, for he was the embodiment of purity compared with Cannon. As a libertine, he outranks even Kearns. He has ruined more homes and despoiled more women than any man in the west. In business, he has always been a fakir, in politics a many-times turncoat. He has been a prisoner in most of the jails in the state for crimes ranging from drunkenness and grand larceny to assault with intent to commit murder. These two men, aided by the crafty and petty-fogging, unscrupulous Joe, are the leaders of the gang of Knockers that is scourging Utah, they have been made the head and front of the society of reverend Knock-

ers composed of such men as Rev. J. L. Leilich, the perjurer, Rev. Jones, the forger and embezzler, Rev. Mabrey, the adulterer; Rev. Hermann, the double murderer, Rev. J. Wesley Hill, Rev. T. C. Iliff, Rev. Geo. Bailey, Rev. E. S. Wishard and others who for gain make a business of telling infamous lies from pulpit and platform about Utah.

Truth is exposing the rottenness of these people, these whitened sepulchres filled with dead men's bones and all uncleanness, this Utah Mafia. We want to let the world know what manner of men they are and we are going to do it. It is no use for these people to ignore what we say about them. Everything we have said is true, and can be proved. They dare not—cannot deny it. It comes from a knowledge of the facts.

PERNICIOUS ADVERTISING.

Editor Truth:

In my letter to you on February 14th, I told you how the Presbyterians, through Brother S. E. Wishard, their superintendent of Utah and Idaho, were advertising Utah in the Presbyterian Assembly Herald. These articles in the Assembly Herald pictured our homes as hovels and our schools as mean and insufficient. There is now being circulated through the eastern states a little book which seems to supplement the Assembly Herald. This book tells the world and leads it to believe that all the people (except the orthodox missionaries) in Utah are ignorant, debased and immoral. The title of the book or pamphlet is "The Story of Our Work Awheel and Afoot in Mormondom During 1904, Being the Annual Report of the Utah Gospel Mission." The book is dishonest in the extreme and, like the Assembly Herald, tells only half of a story, which is the meanest kind of a lie. It gives a history of eleven orthodox missionaries who traveled through Utah during the summer of 1904. These missionaries visited 9,500 families, held 172 meetings in 65 different places. On page 10 of their pamphlet they speak of Mormon ideas as paganism and on page 14, like Brother Wishard, they speak of the Utah people as a people who sit in darkness. To read the entire book, you would be led to believe that they did not meet a Gentile in all their travels and all the Mormons they met were bad ones.

They do not have one good word for Utah or her people.

In summing up their entire work, they say: "In the extracts from letters on page 14 and beyond will be found facts of intense interest on these and other points." I will give a few of the extracts in their entirety:

"A boy at a certain place said that some one was drunk and had a 'scrap' (fight) at nearly every dance they have there. They are held in the school building where the other church meetings are also held, and are under the auspices of the Young Men's Mutual."—(Y. M. M. I. A.)

"Former Bishop ——— maltreated his four wives, left them and eloped to (out of Utah) with another man's wife; was put out of the church, but now has managed to get back in. This is the sad story, in brief, told me by one of the 'poly-' wives. She will not call herself ———, (his name), but ———, the name of her former husband."

"In conversation with a Mormon, he said: 'If you pay your tithing, you are all right.' As to morals, he said no account was taken of drunkenness, dishonesty, fighting and such like."

"A Mormon: 'I've never committed any sins.' 'What did Christ die for then?' 'His own sins, of course.'"

"In ———, a lady said she never read her Bible, but trusted to the 'elders' to tell her everything."

"A Mormon lady teacher, talking to a young Mormon girl who is seriously thinking of becoming a Christian: 'If you become a Christian the boys will not come to see you.' She replied, 'Is that so? Don't the boys come to see Christian girls?'"

"A certain mine operator said: 'You can't trust the Mormons, they are such thieves and drink all the time.' (This is too strong for a universal statement, but is too sadly true of very many.)

"Plural wife No. 2: 'Polygamy is hell. I know; I was No. 2. My children did not know their father; he never took any notice of them, and did not provide for me or them!'"

"Illiterate Mormon: 'Well, I seen God at the dedication of the Temple (Salt Lake). He came out in his robes and held out his arms so (spreading). And it was just as they said it would be, before the dedication. Some seen him and some didn't. But I seen him.'"

"Mr. ———, a Mormon elder said last night in his talk: 'God has a

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